IFW

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Inventor: James K. Bullis

Art Unit 3737

Examiner: IMAM, ALI M.

Response To First Office Action

1. A revised abstract is enclosed.

2. Applicant appreciates allowance of claims 1-27.

3. Applicant submits that claims 28 and 29 are not anticipated by Smith et al. (US 6,066,096) because of the narrowing clause in claim 28 that says: "--, where said electrical operation is in relation to an electric field that is parallel to said backing surface." Smith teaches to the contrary as evidenced by his Fig. 3A wherein conductors 300 are shown attached to the back of elements 215. As such, conductors connect to metalized surfaces of the elements 215 that are on the back and front (front attachment not shown specifically) of those elements 215 such that electric fields act in a direction that is perpendicular to the backing surface. This conventional practice in the industry is consistent with the way piezo-electric transducer elements are formed in conventional ultrasonic transducers. Applicants specification describes construction of unique transducer elements where metallization is on sides of elements such that an electric field operates parallel to the backing surface. This leads to a unique transducer array construction. Thus, claims 28 and 29 would appear to be allowable.

4. Check for $60 is enclosed as fee for late response within 30 days.

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James K. Bullis, Applicant

Mailed at Coronado CA, Sept 27, 2005